

NOTICE OF FORTY FIVE (45) DAY COMMENT PERIOD ON THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO'S PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF \$66,352 IN FEDERAL TITLE III AGRICULTURE FOREST RESERVE PAYMENT FUNDS TO ADDRESS SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND THE BARK BEETLE INFESTATION THAT WAS ORIGINALLY PROCLAIMED A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2002.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, November 23, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, County Government Center, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, California, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors was directed to publish a 45-day notice of intent to use \$66,352 of Federal Title III Agriculture Forest Reserve Payment funds to address severe drought conditions and a bark beetle infestation in the local mountains of the County. On September 24, 2002, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a state of local emergency as a result of the severe drought and infestation of bark beetles in the pine trees in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. These funds are received annually by the County as payment in lieu of lost local revenues resulting from federal ownership of lands in the National Forest. A limited amount of these funds are required to be set aside for special forestry and related educational projects, including "community forestry" and "fire prevention" projects. These set aside funds could be used effectively to address the current bark beetle infestation. The proposed project would entail allocating \$66,352 of these funds to the County Fire Department to be used in addressing the fire prevention, environmental, ecological, flood control, and economic aspects of this emergency. It is contemplated that if the proposed project is implemented, the County Fire Department will hire arborists to assist it, along with the California Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service, in identifying and prioritizing diseased, dying and dead standing trees in the emergency designated area for felling, treatment, and removal. The proposed project may also include, but would not be limited to: (1) Contract services in connection with identifying the specific number and location of diseased, and dead standing trees, (2) Fire prevention and planning to increase the protection of people and property from wildfires, and educational programs involving fire protection for homeowners within the wildland urban interface. These efforts are to increase the protection of people and property from wildfires. Federal guidelines for use of Title III funds require that the Board of Supervisors publish a 45-day notice of intent, allowing the public to comment on the proposed project. Staff will return to the Board following the 45-day comment period with a recommendation on whether to proceed with the proposed project, based on comments received from the public.

Contact person for more information on this issue is Peter Brierty, Fire Marshal for the County of San Bernardino, 620 South E Street, San Bernardino, California 92415-0179, telephone (909) 386-8405. Any interested person desiring to make an official oral comment on the expenditure of these funds for this purpose may do so by appearing at the regularly scheduled meeting of the County Board of Supervisors and speak during the public comment period. Any person desiring to make official written comment on the same subject may do so by written communication filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, California 92415-0130.

Date: 11/23/04